

colleagues will join this effort to ensure that a reform bill can be enacted this year.●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN DAPONTE

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on December 31, 1997, John DaPonte retired from U.S. Government service and returned to his home state of Rhode Island after having served at the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board since 1968. The retirement of a federal official happens several times every day. However, it is important that John DaPonte's career in government be remembered because of the impact that he and the Foreign-Trade Zones Board have made on U.S. trade policy, U.S. companies in the global marketplace, and the economic development of a wide range of communities in the United States. There are few federal government officials who have made such a direct positive impact on the subject they manage.

The agency for which John DaPonte worked, the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, is one of the smallest federal agencies in Washington, D.C. with only nine employees. It is so small that it does not have a line item in the federal budget. In 1968, Zone projects existed in only 6 states and Puerto Rico and were very modest in size. Today, Foreign-Trade Zones Board activity is in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. During his tenure at the Board, the agency's Zone projects increased from 9 in 1968 to 560 in 1997, a yearly growth rate of 221%; domestic merchandise receipts grew from \$18 million in 1966 to \$125.6 billion. An average yearly rate of 24.933%; and employment increased from 1200 jobs in 1968 to 370,000 jobs an average yearly growth rate of 1.138%. There are few, if any, federal agencies with this growth record. John DaPonte deserves a thank you for managing an important U.S. trade program that grew rapidly over the last 30 years with very modest resources.

The Foreign-Trade Zone Program is an economic development tool for communities providing financial assistance to many troubled U.S. industries, as well as to foreign-based firms interested in establishing U.S. production operations, by helping them be competitive in the global marketplace. Foreign-Trade Zones place U.S. production facilities on an equal footing with foreign operations. The benefit of this investment is the creation of jobs in the U.S. Industry groups become involved in the Foreign-Trade Zone Program in order to solve trade problems. Major industries involved in the program include shipbuilding, motor vehicles, oil refining, pharmaceuticals, and information technology.

The growth of the Foreign-Trade Zone Program required a very significant amount of effort by the staff of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board. The Foreign-Trade Zones Act, and laws pertaining thereto, were amended in the 1968 to 1997 period on thirteen (13) occa-

sions. Mr. DaPonte implemented many new procedures at the Foreign-Trade Zones Board including minor boundary modifications and grant restrictions to assist in managing the very rapid growth of the program in a balanced manner and without major funding or personnel. In 1968, 2 applications for new projects were filed. In 1997, 85 applications were filed. Board Orders approving new Zone projects grew during the period from 3 Board Orders issued in 1968 to 78 Board Orders issued in 1997.

In order to operate effectively, the Foreign-Trade Zones Board works closely with a wide range of U.S. government agencies. Most important, is the Board's continuing involvement with state and local governmental organizations that implements most zone activity. At a time when we in Washington are trying to empower states and localities, we would do well to look at the positive program developed under John DaPonte's leadership. The Foreign-Trade Zones Program, from the beginning, has been one that actively engaged states, counties, cities, and port authorities on all levels to encourage local economic development activities.

It is clear that during John DaPonte's tenure at the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, the program experienced extraordinary growth. He managed this high level of growth effectively with extremely modest personnel and budget resources. No other Federal agency has created such a positive impact on our nation's balance of trade with such limited resources. John DaPonte's involvement in the federal government is a classic example of the federal government at its best. Today, we remember the positive contributions of John DaPonte to U.S. trade. This Congress thanks him for his efforts and wishes him well in his future endeavors.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 508 through 524 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be considered and confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert C. Hinson, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gary A. Winterberger, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Russell C. Axtell, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Garry R. Trexler, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Larry K. Arnold, 0000

Brig. Gen. James H. Bassham, 0000

Brig. Gen. George F. Scoggins, Jr., 0000

To be brigadier general

Col. James F. Barnette, 0000

Col. Ralph J. Clift, 0000

Col. Harold A. Cross, 0000

Col. Thomas G. Cutler, 0000

Col. Gilbert R. Dardis, 0000

Col. Thomas P. Maguire, Jr., 0000

Col. Barbara J. Nelson, 0000

Col. Avrum M. Rabin, 0000

Col. Gary L. Sayler, 0000

Col. Andrew J. Thompson, IV, 0000

Col. Harry A. Troscclair, 0000

Col. Stephen L. Vonderheide, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Fred E. Ellis, 0000

Brig. Gen. Edward R. Jayne, II, 0000

Brig. Gen. Carl A. Lorenzen, 0000

Brig. Gen. Richard A. Platt, 0000

Brig. Gen. John H. Smith, 0000

Brig. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris, 0000

To be brigadier general

Col. William E. Bonnell, 0000

Col. Edward H. Greene, II, 0000

Col. Robert H. Harkins, III, 0000

Col. James W. Higgins, 0000

Col. Robert F. Howarth, Jr., 0000

Col. Thomas C. Hruby, 0000

Col. Richard S. Kenney, 0000

Col. Phil P. Leventis, 0000

Col. Charles A. Morgan, III, 0000

Col. Jerry W. Ragsdale, 0000

Col. Lawrence D. Rusconi, 0000

Col. Richard H. Santoro, 0000

Col. Wayne L. Schultz, 0000

Col. Ralph S. Smith, Jr., 0000

Col. Ronald C. Szarlan, 0000

Col. James K. Wilson, 0000

Col. Ruth A. Wong, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William P. Tangney, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: